

Simon Charlow

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Research

Specialization: formal and computational semantics for natural language.

Interests: scope and binding; indefiniteness; dynamic semantics; continuations; monads; ellipsis.

Employment

2014– Assistant Professor, Rutgers University Department of Linguistics.
Member, Rutgers University Center for Cognitive Science (RuCCS).

Education

2008–14 New York University, Ph.D. Linguistics.
Dissertation: [On the semantics of exceptional scope](#) (Chair: Chris Barker).

2003–07 Brown University, B.A. Linguistics (Honors) & Visual Art.

Papers

- accepted [The scope of alternatives: Indefiniteness and islands.](#)
In press at *Linguistics & Philosophy*. 46pp.
- [Where is the destructive update problem?](#)
In press at *Semantics & Pragmatics*. 17pp.
- [Variable-free semantics and flexible grammars for anaphora.](#)
To appear in *Studies in Linguistics and Philosophy* 100. 25pp.
- [Post-suppositions and semantic theory.](#)
Accepted with minor revisions at *Journal of Semantics*. 49pp.
- submitted [Static and dynamic exceptional scope.](#)
Submitted to *Journal of Semantics*. 51pp.
- [Scalar implicature and exceptional scope.](#)
Resubmitted to *Linguistic Inquiry*. 14pp.
- \exists -Closure and alternatives: Reply to Griffiths (2018). (Email for a draft)
Resubmitted to *Linguistic Inquiry*. 15pp.
- [A modular theory of pronouns and binding.](#)
Submitted to *Natural Language Semantics*. 15pp.
- in progress Givenness and local contexts.
Short version in prep for *Proceedings of SALT 29*; long version in prep for journal submission.
- 2017 [Parsing with Dynamic Continuized CCG.](#)
Michael White, Simon Charlow, Jordan Needle & Dylan Bumford.
Proceedings of the 13th International Workshop on Tree Adjoining Grammars and Related Formalisms (TAG+13), Association for Computational Linguistics (71–83).
- 2015 [GIVENNESS, compositionally and dynamically.](#)
Short 'schrift for Alan Prince. 7pp.

- 2014 Bound ‘de re’ pronouns and the LFs of attitude reports.
Simon Charlow & Yael Sharvit.
Semantics & Pragmatics 7(3), 1–43.
DOI:10.3765/sp.7.3.
- Stochastic time analysis of syllable-referential intervals and simplex onsets.
Adamantios I. Gafos, Simon Charlow, Jason A. Shaw & Philip Hoole.
Journal of Phonetics 44, 152–166.
DOI:10.1016/j.wocn.2013.11.007.
- 2012 Cross-categorical donkeys.
Selected Papers from the 18th Amsterdam Colloquium, 261–270.
DOI:10.1007/978-3-642-31482-7_27.
- 2010 Can DP be a scope island?
ESSLI 2008 & ESSLI 2009 Student Sessions, Selected Papers, 1–12.
DOI:10.1007/978-3-642-14729-6_1.
- 2009 “Strong” predicative presuppositional objects.
Proceedings of New Directions in the Theory of Presupposition, ESSLI 2009 (11pp).
- 2008 Free and bound pro-verbs: a unified treatment of anaphora.
Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory 18, 194–211.
DOI:10.3765/salt.voio.2487

External teaching and short visiting positions

- 2019 Extensible semantics.
Invited minicourse, Yale University, Aug 28–Sep 10, part of a two-week visiting position.
- Alternatives in semantics.
Invited advanced course, Eastern Generative Grammar (EGG), Wrocław, Jul 29–Aug 9.
- Extensible semantics.
Invited minicourse, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, April 3 & 4.

Selected presentations (* = refereed, † = colloquium, ‡ = keynote)

- 2020 † Title TBD.
Colloquium, University of Chicago, April 9.
- 2019 † Title TBD.
Colloquium, University of Delaware, November 1.
- Givenness and local contexts.
Invited talk, Yale University Syntax/Semantics Group, September 3.
- ‡ Givenness and local contexts.
Keynote address, Semantics and Linguistic Theory 29, UCLA, May 18. ([slides](#))
- † Local contexts in ellipsis.
Colloquium, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, April 5. (Also given at NYU, Rutgers.)
- 2018 Parsing monads for dynamic semantics.
Invited lecture, New type-theoretic tools in natural language semantics, Carnegie Mellon University (NASSLLI 2018), June 28.

- Static and dynamic exceptional scope.
Invited talk, Meaning as action, All Souls College Oxford University, Mar 19.
- 2017 † Modularity and computation in semantic theory.
Colloquium, Princeton University, Nov 29.
- * A modular theory of pronouns and binding.
Logic and Engineering of Natural Language Semantics 14, Tokyo, Nov 14. ([slides](#))
- Modular alternative semantics.
UMass Amherst Semantics Group talk, Oct 25. ([slides](#))
- * A modular theory of pronouns (and binding).
Philosophical Linguistics & Linguistical Philosophy, Tarrytown, Oct 14. ([slides](#))
- A modular theory of pronouns (and binding).
Invited talk, New York Philosophy of Language Workshop, NYC, Sept 25. ([slides](#))
- * Parsing with Dynamic Continuized CCG.
Michael White, Simon Charlow, Jordan Needle & Dylan Bumford.
13th International Workshop on Tree-Adjoining Grammar and Related Formalisms (TAG+13),
Umeå, Sept 5. ([slides](#))
- A modular theory of pronouns (and binding).
Invited talk, Philosophy of Language & Linguistics, Dubrovnik, Sept 4. ([slides](#))
- Exceptional implicature.
Invited talk, Nova Scotia Meaning Workshop, Shobac NS, Jul 27. ([slides](#))
- The scope of alternatives: Indefinites and islands
Invited talk, UCSD Semantics Babble, Jun 1. ([slides](#))
- Meaning as computation?
Invited lecture, UCSD Graduate Semantics (Ling 230), May 30. ([slides](#))
- What is dynamic semantics?
Invited lecture, Rutgers Semantics Group (SURGE), Apr 20.
- 2016 Alternatives, and alternative semantics.
NYU Semantics Group, November 4. ([abstract](#), [slides](#))
- * Monadic dynamic semantics: Side effects and scope (with Dylan Bumford).
Natural Language & Computer Science 4, Columbia Univ, July 10. ([slides](#))
- The syntax-semantics interface.
Invited lecture, Cognitive Science Proseminar, Rutgers University, October 18.
- 2015 † The grammar of exceptional scope.
Colloquium, University of Maryland, November 20. ([abstract](#), [slides](#))
- Comments on “Are attitude reports ambiguous?” (Sam Cumming).
5th Cornell Workshop in Linguistics and Philosophy, November 7.
- † The grammar of exceptional scope.
Colloquium, Cornell University, November 5. ([abstract](#), [slides](#))
- Monadic dynamic semantics for anaphora.
Invited talk, Dynamic Semantics: Modern type theoretic and category theoretic approaches,
The Ohio State University, October 24. ([slides](#))

- Leading issues at the interface of syntax and semantics.
Invited lecture, Cognitive Science Proseminar, Rutgers University, October 20.
- Compositional licensing of silent structure.
Invited talk, CUNY Syntax Supper, October 13. ([slides](#))
- Monadic dynamic semantics for anaphora.
NYU Semantics Group, October 9.
- Monads, applicative functors, and scope.
Invited lecture, Monads and Natural Language (ESSLI 2015), Uni. Pompeu Fabra, August 7.
- Conventional Implicature as a scope phenomenon.
Workshop on continuations and scope, New York University, May 22. ([slides](#))
- * The scope of alternatives.
Semantics and Linguistic Theory 25, Stanford University, May 15. ([slides](#))
- ‡ The scope of alternatives.
Keynote address, Going Heim: Linguistic Meaning Between Structure and Use, University of Connecticut, May 3. ([handout](#))
- Formal semantics.
Invited lecture, Advanced Topics in Cognitive Science, Rutgers University, April 7.
- 2014 † The dynamic core of exceptional scope.
Colloquium, Rutgers University, February 28. ([handout](#))
- Locality in the syntax and semantics of attitude ascriptions.
Invited talk, Rutgers University, February 27. ([handout](#))
- 2013 Ellipsis really is binding.
NYU Semantics Group, March 28.
- 2011 * Cross-categorial donkeys.
The 18th Amsterdam Colloquium, University of Amsterdam, December 20. ([slides](#))
- More on the LFs of attitude reports.
Invited session, University of Michigan Workshop in Philosophy and Linguistics, April 9. Comments by Nicholas Fleisher, Ezra Keshet. Reported joint work with Yael Sharvit.
- * Bound ‘de re’ pronouns and concept generators (with Yael Sharvit).
The 33rd Annual Conference of the German Linguistic Society (DGfS), Georg August University, Göttingen, February 23.
- 2010 * Bound ‘de re’ pronouns and concept generators (with Yael Sharvit).
The 41st Annual Meeting of North East Linguistic Society, University of Pennsylvania, October 24. ([handout](#))
- * *De re* anaphors.
Poster at Semantics and Linguistic Theory 20, University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, April 30. ([poster](#))
- Two kinds of *de re* blocking.
Presentation in MIT’s Ling-Lunch series, March 18. ([handout](#))
- 2009 * “Strong” predicative presuppositions.
New Directions in the Theory of Presupposition, Bordeaux, July 29. ([slides](#))

- * Can DP be a scope island?
ESSLLI 2009 Student Session, Bordeaux, July 23. ([slides](#))

- 2008 * Free and bound pro-verbs: a unified treatment of anaphora.
Semantics and Linguistic Theory 18, UMass Amherst, March 23. ([handout](#))

Teaching

As primary instructor (Rutgers):

- 2020 Introduction to Linguistic Theory (Honors).
Undergraduate, Spring.
Semantics II.
Graduate, Spring.
- 2019 Semantics III.
Graduate, Fall.
Semantics II.
Graduate, Spring.
- 2018 Semantics III.
Graduate, Fall.
Introduction to Linguistic Theory.
Undergraduate, Fall.
Semantics.
Undergraduate, Spring.
Semantics II.
Graduate, Spring.
- 2017 [Computational semantics](#).
Graduate seminar, Spring.
- 2016 Introduction to Linguistic Theory.
Undergraduate, Fall.
Introduction to Linguistic Theory (Honors).
Undergraduate, Fall.
Semantics.
Undergraduate, Spring.
Qualifying Paper Workshop.
Graduate, Spring.
- 2015 [Semantics I](#).
Graduate, Fall.
[The scope of alternatives](#).
Graduate seminar, Spring.
Qualifying Paper Workshop.
Graduate, Spring.
- 2014 [Semantics I](#).
Graduate, Fall.

As teaching assistant (NYU, Brown):

- 2012 Grammatical Analysis.
New York University, primary instructor Stephanie Harves.
- 2011 Introduction to Semantics.
New York University, primary instructor Chris Barker.

- Language.
New York University, primary instructor Anna Szabolcsi.
- 2007 Introduction to Linguistics.
Brown University, primary instructor Mark Johnson.

Advising

As dissertation chair:

- ongoing Yu Cao. Title TBD (Graph-theoretic meaning representation, quantification, and scope).
Ang Li. Title TBD (Licensing event-relative measurement).
Haoze Li (NYU). A dynamic semantics for *wh*-questions. Co-chair: Anna Szabolcsi.
Lydia Newkirk. Title TBD (Bantu modality).
Augustina Owusu. A cross-linguistic analysis of clausal determiners.
- 2019 Jess H.-K. Law. Constraints on distributivity. Co-chair: Veneeta Dayal.
Assistant Professor at UC Santa Cruz Department of Linguistics.

As dissertation committee member:

- 2019 Yağmur Sağ. The semantics of bare nouns, counting, and measurement.
- 2018 Yi-Hsun Chen. Superlative modifiers: Ignorance and concession.
- 2017 Dylan Bumford (NYU). Split-scope effects in definite descriptions. External member.
Beibei Xu. Biased questions.
- 2016 Mingming Liu. Varieties of alternatives.

As qualifying paper committee chair:

- 2019 Yu Cao. Scope-taking in graph representation of meaning. Co-chair: Adam Jardine.
Cameron Domenico Kirk-Giannini. Non-speaker-oriented conventional implicatures as mixed quotations (RuCCS Cog Sci Certificate project).
Lydia Newkirk. *Benché* and the subjunctive.
- 2017 Simon Goldstein. Alternator semantics (RuCCS Cog Sci Certificate project).
Ang Li. Distributing events: Mandarin verbal classifiers.
- 2016 Augustina Owusu. Actuality entailment in Akan.
- 2015 Jess Law. Modal variation, exhaustivity, and cumulativity. Co-chair: Veneeta Dayal.

As qualifying paper committee member:

- 2018 Eileen Blum. On the locality of vowel harmony over multi-tiered ASRs.
Shiori Ikawa. The role of functions in concealed questions and identity questions.
- 2017 Livia Souza. Modal inference and negative dependencies in Brazilian Portuguese.
Deepak Alok. Semantics of various internal components of Magahi numeral phrases.
- 2016 Jess Law. The discourse potential of bare NPs in Mandarin.
Kunio Kinjo. Contrastively topicalized *wh* in Japanese and Okinawan.
Yağmur Sağ. The semantics of number in Turkish.
- 2015 Yi-Hsun Chen. Actuality entailment, aspect and genericity.
Ümit Atlamaz. Focus in questions.

Other advising:

- ongoing Rory Harder (University of Toronto Philosophy PhD candidate). Rutgers faculty host.

Service to the field

- ongoing Referee for *Journal of Semantics*, *Language*, *Lingua* (pre-exodus), *Linguistics & Philosophy*, *Semantics & Pragmatics* (member of Editorial Board), *The Linguistic Review*, *Linguistic Inquiry*, *Natural Language Semantics*, Oxford University Press, MIT Press, Semantics and Linguistic Theory, Sinn und Bedeutung, Amsterdam Colloquium, Penn Linguistics Colloquium, Chicago Linguistics Society, Generative Linguistics in the Old World, Semantics and Philosophy in Europe, North East Linguistic Society, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.
- 2019– Semantics and Linguistic Theory steering committee, technology coordinator.
- 2019 Program committee, Philosophical Linguistics and Linguistical Philosophy (PhLiP 6).
- 2017– *Snippets*. Member, Review Board.
- 2017 Program committee, Natural Language in Computer Science 18.
- 2015–16 NASSLLI 2016. Member, Organizing Committee; member, Program Committee.
- 2014 MACSIM IV. Member, organizing team.
- 2013–14 Semantics and Linguistics Theory 24. Member, program committee.
- 2009–11 *Journal of Semantics*. Scientific Assistant (paid).
- 2009–10 Linguistics Association of NYU (LANYU). Vice President.

Service to the university

- 2020 Rutgers Linguistics Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee (anticipated).
- 2019–20 Rutgers Linguistics tenure-track semantics hiring committee (anticipated).
- 2019 Rutgers Linguistics, visiting semantics position hiring committee.
- 2018– Rutgers Linguistics Graduate Program Committee.
- 2017–18 Rutgers Linguistics semantics hiring Committee.
- 2017 Rutgers Linguistics Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee.
Rutgers Linguistics Graduate Admissions Committee.
- 2016– Rutgers University Center for Cognitive Science (RuCCS) Executive Council.
RuCCS Web Content Committee.
- 2016 Rutgers Linguistics Graduate Admissions Committee.

Honors & awards

- 2014 Start-up grant, Rutgers University.
- 2013 Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, New York University.
- 2011 Dean's Student Travel Grant, New York University.
- 2010 Invited participant, Arché/CSMN Mini-course & Workshop on *De Se* Attitudes, Oslo.
- 2009 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.
ESSLLI Student Session Springer Best Paper Award (3rd place).
Dean of the College Outstanding Honors Thesis Award, Brown University.
- 2008 Henry M. MacCracken fellowship for graduate study, New York University.
George W. Hagy Prize in Linguistics (awarded to the outstanding graduating student in linguistics), Brown University Department of Cognitive & Linguistic Sciences.
Magna cum laude, Brown University.
- 2007 Phi Beta Kappa, Brown University.